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Mandated areas

Allocation of travel grants

Note by the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Executive summary

The present note contains the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in March 2003 concerning the allocation of travel grants to attend the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The recommendations were approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 13 March 2003. A previous note on the Fund was submitted to the Forum at its first session (E/C.19/2002/4).

* E/C.19/2003/1.

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I. Mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

1. The General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations by resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985. The Assembly, by resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995, expanded the mandate of the Fund and in its resolution 56/140 of 19 December 2001, further expanded its mandate by deciding that the Fund should be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations in attending, as observers, the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

II. Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

2. In accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, the mandate of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, a subsidiary body to the Secretary-General, is to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Board of Trustees is composed of five persons with relevant experience in issues affecting indigenous populations, who serve in their personal capacity as United Nations experts. The Board members are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, for a renewable three-year term. At least one member could be a representative of a widely recognized organization of indigenous populations.

3. The five members who have been appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year term ending on 31 December 2005 are: Mr. Lars Anders Baer (Saami), Mr. Nadir Bekirov (Crimean Tatar), Mr. Ahmed Mahiou (Amazigh), Mr. José Carlos Morales Morales (Bri Bri) and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Igorot).

III. Beneficiaries

4. The criteria for the selection of beneficiaries have been established by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as by the Secretary-General upon recommendations of the Board of Trustees (see annex I).

IV. Cost Plan for 2003

5. At its fifteenth session in 2002, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Cost Plan of the Fund for 2003, in which it recommended to the Secretary-General to increase the amount of money for allocation to beneficiaries of travel grants to attend the second session of the Forum, taking into consideration the large number of applications that had been received to attend the first session of the Forum. The Secretary-General approved this recommendation on 17 April 2002 (see E/C.19/2002/4, para. 7).

V. Trends in respect of new applications received

6. At its fifteenth session, the Board of Trustees discussed the balance to be observed in 2003 in respect of allocating grants between the Forum and Working Groups. It took into consideration the general increase in the numbers of admissible applications received in 2002, and the trend according to which a much smaller number of applications had been received for the open-ended intersessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights charged with developing a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people (27 applications) than for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (235 applications), as well as the recent and huge interest in attending the first session of the Forum (323 applications).

VI. Applications received to attend the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

7. At its fifteenth session in 2002, the Board of Trustees recommended that the deadline for the submission of application forms should be 1 October 2002. The secretariat of the Fund, at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, received, analysed and decided on the admissibility of about 250 applications received within the established deadline from indigenous organizations and communities.

VII. Recommendations on travel grants

8. Although the Board of Trustees recommended at its fifteenth session in 2002 that, in order to be able to review and adopt recommendations on all admissible applications in time, an additional session of three days should be envisaged at the end of February 2003 to discuss the allocation of travel grants for the Forum, it was not possible in 2003, as it had been possible in 2002, to organize this additional session in time.

9. Therefore, the secretariat applied the same procedure that had been approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General in 2002, for the approval of recommendations for travel grants during the intersessional period. In accordance with this procedure, the current Chairperson considered 206 admissible applications (see table). After the selection criteria and the amount of money already approved in the Cost Plan for 2003 approved by the Secretary-General (US$ 300,000) had been taken into consideration, 43 travel grants were recommended. The High Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary-General, approved these recommendations on 13 March 2003. The list of beneficiaries appears in annex II. The secretariat of the Board of Trustees and Fund immediately informed all the applicants of the decisions adopted on their application.

Admissible applications received and travel grants approved

Session of the Forum	*Year*	*Admissible applications*	*Grants approved*	*Percentage*	*Amount (US dollars)*	*Percentage*
First	2002	323	25	100	138 000	100
Second	2003	206	43	172	300 000	217

VIII. Relations with the Forum

10. At its fifteenth session, the Board of Trustees had recommended that the Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first session in May 2002, invite the Chairperson or any other member of the Board of Trustees or the secretariat of the Board of Trustees and Fund, to deliver a statement and report on the implementation of the new mandate given to the Fund by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/140. It is envisaged that the Board of Trustees will make a similar recommendation this year at its annual session, scheduled to take place from 31 March to 4 April 2003, concerning the second session of the Forum.

11. The Board of Trustees had also recommended that the Secretary-General report on the implementation of the new mandate in his biennial report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, as well as in a special report to the Forum on the same subject, as a sessional document of the first session. Documents A/57/296, E/C.19/2002/4 and the present note have been drafted in accordance with these recommendations.

IX. Conclusion

12. The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations adopted recommendations in March 2003 concerning the allocation of travel grants to allow 43 representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend, as observers, the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. These recommendations were approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 13 March 2003.

Annex I

Criteria for the selection of beneficiaries

1. According to General Assembly resolution 40/131, the only beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be representatives of indigenous populations' organizations and communities:

(a) Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations;

(b) Who would not, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Groups or the Forum without the assistance provided by the Fund;

(c) Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Groups or the Forum of the problems affecting indigenous populations and who would secure a broad geographical representation.

2. According to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32,[a] in order to be able to attend the Commission on Human Rights Working Groups, organizations must in addition be in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or be so authorized by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

3. In addition, the Secretary-General approved the following criteria upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees:

(a) The representatives and the organizations applying for a grant should be indigenous;

(b) The Board of Trustees does not consider applicants who do not provide a letter of support signed by an executive of their indigenous organization or applicants who are not indigenous persons;

(c) The Board considers a maximum of only two applicants per organization;

(d) Applicants are requested to submit application forms and recommendation letters in the working languages of the secretariat of the Board of Trustees (English, French or Spanish);

(e) The Board of Trustees selects both representatives who have never participated in a session of a Working Group or the Forum and representatives who already participated and could develop specialized capacity and strengthen the core group of participants in a Working Group or the Forum;

(f) The Board of Trustees encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider gender balance and, if possible, propose one woman and one man;

(g) The Board of Trustees encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider nominating young persons;

(h) The Board of Trustees encourages the former beneficiaries of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to apply for grants to represent their indigenous organization or community at sessions of the Working Groups or Forum by sending application forms that are duly filled in and meeting all the criteria for selection;

(i) Applicants are requested to indicate their responsibility in their organization or community;

(j) Applicants to the session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations are requested to refer in their statements to the specific theme of the year.

Notes

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Annex II

Beneficiaries of travel grants to attend the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, 12-23 May 2003)

Name of representative[a]	*Organization*	*Indigenous populations represented*[b]	*City and State*[c]	*Contribution to the Forum*
Saoudata Aboubacrine (f)	Tin Hinan	Touareg	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Culture and education; human rights
Vital Bambanze (m)	Unissons-nous pour la promotion des Batwa	Batwa	Mutanga, Burundi	Situation of the Batwa
Adolphine Byayuwa Muley (f)	Union pour l'émancipation de la femme autochtone	Pygmy	Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Situation of indigenous peoples' rights
Menga-Aimée Pindi (f)	Action humanitaire pour l'encadrement des paysans Yaka	Bayaka, Teke-Humbu, Bambala, M'suku etc.	Kenge, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fight against the degradation of the lives of indigenous people
H. Kirwa Cheruiyot (m)	Njemps Indigenous People of Kenya	Njemps	Eldama Ravine, Kenya	Human and land rights of the Njemps
Esther Salil (f)	Lembus Indigenous People	Lembus	Eldama Ravine, Kenya	Social and economic issues of the Lembus community, culture of the Lembus women
Dolphine Achieng Okech (f)	Kenya Female Advisory Organization	Luo, Suba, Kuria, Saboti	Kisumu, Kenya	Empowerment framework; indigenous peoples' sexuality issues and reproductive health concerns in the twenty-first century
Hassan Idbalkassm (m)	Association Tamaynut	Amazigh	Agdal, Rabat, Morocco	Need for strengthening the participation of indigenous people in the United Nations system; relations between the Forum and non-governmental organizations
Alfred Ilenre (m)	Ethnic Minority and Indigenous Rights Organization of Africa	Edo	Lagos, Nigeria	Indigenous people and development in Africa

Name of representative[a]	*Organization*	*Indigenous populations represented*[b]	*City and State*[c]	*Contribution to the Forum*
Legborsi Pyagbara (m)	Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP)	Ogoni	Port Harcourt, Nigeria	Aspects of socio-economic development, culture and environment affecting the Ogoni
Benon Mugarura (m)	African Indigenous and Minority Peoples Organization	Batwa	Kigali, Rwanda	Batwa development and human rights in the Great Lakes region
Adam Kuleit Ole Mwarabu (m)	The Parakuiyo Community	Parakuiyo	Chalinze Coast region, United Republic of Tanzania	Land rights
Akouvi Betty Gblem (f)	Association pour la promotion durable de la femme défavorisée	Ewe	Lomé, Togo	Access of indigenous women to education and information for an effective integration in development
Viviana Elsa Figueroa (f)	Asociación de la juventud indígena argentina	Kolla	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Proposal of active participation of young indigenous people in the Forum
María Eugenia Choque Quispe (f)	Centro de Estudios Aymara	Aymara	La Paz, Bolivia	Participation of indigenous women in the context of education, health and traditional knowledge
Ivo Mathias (m)	Associação Organizacional Beneficiente Awete Kaiwa Guarani	Guarani	Rodovia Dourados, Itapora, Brazil	Different programmes and their influence on the community
Miguel Antonio Valbuena Guauriyú (m)	Akuaipa Waimakat	Wayuu	La Guajira, Colombia	Actual situation of the Wayuu; indigenous legislation, education, health
Mirian Masaquiza (f)	Confederación nacional de organizaciones campesinas, indígenas y negras (FENOCIN)	Kichwa	Quito, Ecuador	Social development, culture, education, environment, human rights
Daniel Domingo Lopez (m)	Proyecto de Desarrollo Santiago	Maya Mam	Mixto, Guatemala	Indigenous education and its contributions to identity, diversity and intercultural exchange

Name of representative[a]	*Organization*	*Indigenous populations represented*[b]	*City and State*[c]	*Contribution to the Forum*
Margarita Gutierrez Romero (f)	Servicios para el desarrollo	Hnahnu	Ixmiquilpan Hidalgo, Mexico	Conflict resolution and indigenous women
Marcelina Ponce Hancco (f)	Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas Alapaqueras de la Región de Puno-Amar	Quechuas, Aymaras	Puno, Peru	Indigenous women's rights; health; fair trade
Tomas Alarcón (m)	Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos	Aymaras	Tacna, Peru	Existing United Nations mechanisms concerning indigenous people
Adrian Orozco Huaytalla (m)	Asociación Comuneros de Hahuapuquio, Centro de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunal (INTI)	Hahuapuquio	Lima, Peru	Strengthening of indigenous populations in Peru as regards indigenous rights and integral development of communities
Albert Deterville (m)	The Aldet Centre-Saint Lucia	Bethechilokono	Castries, Saint Lucia	Human rights and territorial rights
Jimai Montiel (m)	Fundación Alitasia	Wayuu	Páez, Venezuela	Ideas for declarations and future projects
Estebancio Castro (m)	International Indian Treaty Council and Kuna Youth Movement	Kuna	San Francisco, California, United States of America	Environment and sustainable development: indigenous children and youth
Mrinal Kanti Tripura (m)	Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti	Jumma	Kalyanpur, Bangladesh	Human rights
Lalzuam Bamw (m)	Indigenous Villages Development Service Association	Maru, Khamui, Pangkhua, Lushai, Bamw, Khiang, Tangchangya	Bandarban, Bangladesh	Perception of indigenous people; human rights development and economic development
Jebra Ram Muchahary (m)	St. John's Mission, Bijni	Bodo-Kochari	Bongaigaon, India	Present situation of Bodo indigenous people in terms of land, water and forests
Chhaya Khobragade (f)	Society for Sustainable Development	Dalits	Samudrapur, India	Human rights, culture, basic rights

Name of representative[a]	*Organization*	*Indigenous populations represented*[b]	*City and State*[c]	*Contribution to the Forum*
Ferdinand Marisan (m)	ELSHAM, the Institute for Human Rights Study and Advocacy	Papuas	Jayapura, Indonesia	Health issues, development and education
Terrianus Hans Bukórpioper (m)	The Custom Council of Byak	Papuan indigenous populations from Byak	Biak, West Papua, Indonesia	Human rights of the Papuas
Sirjana Subba (f)	Association of Limbu Shamans	Limbu	Katmandu, Nepal	Indigenous youth network: dissemination of information on indigenous people in the United Nations system
Indira Rai (f)	Kulung Rai Language and Cultural Development Community	Kulung	Katmandu, Nepal	Promotion of Kulung language, culture; advocacy of human rights, in particular women's rights
Tracey Te Aroha Whare (f)	Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Trust	Maori, Ngati Ahuru, Ngati Raukawa	Masterton, New Zealand	International law and growing international indigenous jurisprudence: role of the Forum
Joan Carling (f)	Cordillera Peoples Alliance	Kankanaey	Baguio City, Philippines	Issues and concerns of the Cordillera indigenous people; recommendation on the work plan and programme of the Forum
Franklin Almoza (m)	Organization of Concern of Loacan Indigenous Peoples	Ibaloi	Benguet, Philippines	Right to development of indigenous people
Kristina Nordling (f)	The Saami Council (Swedish section)	Saami	Ohlejohka, Finland	Strengthening of the work of the Forum in areas of health, culture, education and human rights: youth network
Yegor Bekrenev (m)	Association of the Shor People	Shor	Myski town, Russian Federation	Indigenous issues relating to economic, social development, environment, culture and education

Name of representative[a]	*Organization*	*Indigenous populations represented*[b]	*City and State*[c]	*Contribution to the Forum*
Pavel Sulyandziga (m)	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	Indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East including the Udege	Moscow, Russian Federation	Development, environment, human rights
Rodion Sulyandziga (m)	Primorsky Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North	Udege	Vladivostok, Russian Federation	Economic and social development
Gulvaira Shermatova (f)	Altai regional public organization of the Kumandin peoples "Istok"	Kumandin	Biysk, Russian Federation	Establishment of territories for traditional nature use in Siberia
Nadir Bekirov (m)[d]	Mejlis of Crimean Tatar People	Crimean Tatars	Crimea, Ukraine	Human rights, political participation, land issues, United Nations system, cultural heritage, sustainable development

[a] According to the application form, all the representatives are themselves indigenous.
[b] According to the application form.
[c] According to the application form.
[d] As the applicant was appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees the secretariat has sent a letter to the organization asking if it is willing to nominate another representative to attend the second session of the Forum.